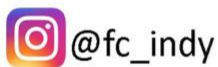




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAL+ community.

Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. **We are a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love.** At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Today’s worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera please speak with our minister.

Pastoral Care: You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care. She may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) and Pastor Sarah are in office Thursdays from 9am-12.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

SCRIPTURE	Matthew 2:1-12	Scott Semester
MESSAGE	The Light Within	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
*SONG OF REFLECTION	When A Star Is Shining	<i>(see back of bulletin)</i>

WE RESPOND

INVITATION AND COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE Cranham arr. Baker

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**To you O God we here do raise
our song and gifts of thankful praise.
The Christmas Child protect from harm,
and keep all children safe and warm.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #165 Love Came Down at Christmas *New Century Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
Blessing

BLESSING SONG Let It Shine Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Petite Toccata J. Kimball
Music for Sending Forth

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Youth Group will Resume in the New Year: Join the FC Indy Youth Group, beginning in January 12, from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

2023 Annual Report deadline for boards, committees, and teams is January 10. Please email Annual Reports to Cassidy at cassidy@fcindy.org

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning’s singing; all skill levels welcome!

Spiritual Support Group is on Pause: Please contact Pastor Sarah for support and prayer.



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant which includes supporting the following organizations: Faith in Indiana, Peace Learning Center, Exodus Refugee Immigration and Family Promise.



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.



Gifts of single dollars, or those designed to Covenant Outreach, are divided evenly to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Tuesday, January 9	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, January 9	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith
Thursday, January 11	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Friday, January 12	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Friday, January 12	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, January 13	2:00 PM	Cassidy Hall's Ordination Celebration at FC Indy (see colony for more info)
Sunday, January 14	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, January 14	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written: ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too.” After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



@fc_indy



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WHEN A STAR IS SHINING

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

CRANHAM
Gustav Holst, 1874–1934



1. When a star is shin - ing o - ver east - ern
2. Where the world is wait - ing for an un-known
3. Lead us on, O Day - star, in the qui - et



hills, when the air is si - lent,
day; where a voice for - got - ten
night; guide us through the shad - ow



and the clam - or stills, when the night is
cries, "Pre - pare the way!" where an earth - ly
with your gen - tle light; show us in a



wait - ing, and the old hopes rise,
pow - er makes the heart turn cold—
man - ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
there the gifts are of - fered: in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
bring us to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.